Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A gateway support node ~~(GGSN)~~ operable to provide an interface between an external packet data communications network and a packet radio network, the packet radio network providing a plurality of packet data bearers for communicating the internet packets with nodes attached to the packet radio network, each of the packet data bearers being defined with respect to a source home address of nodes communicating the internet packets, the gateway support node ~~(GGSN)~~ being arranged to receive an internet packet comprising a header field, the header field including a field identifying a source address of the internet packet, a field identifying the destination address of the internet packet and a next header field identifying whether an extension header follows the header and a type of the extension header, the header field identifying that the extension header includes a hop-by-hop extension header, the hop-by-hop extension header including a router alert option header indicating that the hop-by-hop extension header is optional for a router to read, and a value field indicating that the remainder of the hop-by-hop header is provided for the gateway support node, the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header including a field providing a home address of a mobile node, the gateway support node being operable upon receipt of the internet packet ~~according to any of claims 1 to 10~~,

to detect that [[a]] the next header field of the internet packet includes a hop-by-hop extension header, and

to detect [[a]] the router alert option header in the hop-by-hop extension header, and [[a]] the value field indicating that the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header is provided for the gateway support node, and upon detecting the value field indicating that the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header field is for the gateway support node,

to recover information from a field provided in the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header for use in controlling egress and/or ingress of internet packets to the packet radio network in accordance with the information, wherein

the gateway support node is operable

to control ingress of internet packets from the external communications network to the packet data bearers of the packet radio network, by

detecting from the information field provided in the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header a source home address of a mobile correspondent node communicating the internet packets,

using the home address to identify the packet data bearer for communicating the internet packets to a correspondent node attached to the packet radio network, and

allowing ingress of the internet packets to the identified packet data bearer.

12. (original) A gateway support node as claimed in Claim 11, the gateway support node being operable

to allow ingress of the internet packets if either the address in the source address field of the internet packet or the address provided in the field in hop-by-hop extension header for the gateway support node corresponds to a packet data bearer.

13. (currently amended) A gateway support node as claimed in Claim 11 ~~or 12~~, the gateway support node being operable

to perform egress packet filtering in accordance with a destination address of the internet packets received from the plurality of packet data bearers, egress of the internet packets being allowed for internet packets having a legitimate destination address, and upon receipt of the internet packet ~~according to any of Claims 1 to 10~~,

to detect from the information data provided in the hop-by-hop extension header field for the gateway support node a destination home address of a mobile correspondent node which is to be the destination of the internet packets, and

to allow egress of the internet packets if the gateway support node recognizes the destination home address as a legitimate home address.

14. (original) A gateway support node as claimed in Claim 13, the gateway support node being operable to allow egress of the internet packets if either the address in the destination address field of the packet or the address provided in the hop-by-hop extension header for the gateway support node is a legitimate destination address.

15. (currently amended) A gateway support node as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claims 11 ~~to 14~~, wherein the gateway support node is operable as a Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN), according to the General Packet Radio System standard.

16. (currently amended) A packet radio network operable to communicate internet packets between an external packet data network and nodes associated with the packet radio network, the packet radio network providing a plurality of packet data bearers for communicating the internet packets to and/or from the nodes attached to the packet radio network, the packet radio network including a gateway support node as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claims 11 ~~to 15~~.

17. (original) A packet radio network as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the packet radio network is operable in accordance with the General Packet Radio System (GPRS) standard, the gateway support node being a Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN).

18. (currently amended) A method of operating a gateway support node to interface between an external packet data communications network and a packet radio network, the packet radio network providing a plurality of packet data bearers for communicating the internet packets with nodes attached to the packet radio network, each of the packet data bearers being defined with respect to a source home address of the nodes communicating the internet packets, the method comprising

receiving an internet packet ~~according to any of claims 1 to 10;~~ comprising a header field, the header field including a field identifying a source address of the internet packet, a field identifying the destination address of the internet packet and a next header field identifying whether an extension header follows the header and a type of the extension header, the header field identifying that the extension header includes a hop-by-hop extension header, the hop-by-hop extension header including a router alert option header indicating that the hop-by-hop extension header is optional for a router to read, and a value field indicating that the remainder of the hop-by-hop header is provided for the gateway support node of the packet radio network, the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header including a field providing a home address of a mobile node,

detecting that [[a]] the next header field of the internet packet ~~identifies~~ identifying that an extension header includes a hop-by-hop extension header,

detecting [[a]] the router alert option header and [[a]] the value field in the hop-by-hop extension header indicating that the remainder of the hop-by-hop header is provided for the gateway support node, and upon detecting the value field indicating that the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header field is for the gateway support node,

recovering from a field provided in the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header information for use in controlling egress and/or ingress of internet packets to the packet radio network in accordance with the information,

wherein, the controlling the ingress of internet packets from the external communications network to the packet data bearers of the packet radio network in accordance with the information, includes

detecting from the information field provided in the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header field a source home address of a mobile correspondent node communicating the internet packets, using the home address to identify the packet data bearer for communicating the internet packets to a correspondent node attached to the packet radio network, and

allowing ingress of the internet packets to the identified packet data bearer, and otherwise dropping the internet packet.

19. (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18, the method comprising

performing egress packet filtering in accordance with a destination address of internet packets received from the plurality of packet data bearers, egress of internet packets being allowed for internet packets having a legitimate destination address, and upon receipt of [[a]] the internet packet ~~according to any of Claims 1 to 10~~,

detecting from information provided in the remainder of the hop-by-hop extension header field for the gateway support node a destination home address of a mobile correspondent node which is to be the destination of the internet packets, and

allowing egress of internet packets if the gateway support node recognises the destination home address as a legitimate home address.

20-23 (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A computer program having computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a data processor causes the data processor to perform a method according to ~~any of~~ Claim~~s~~ 18 ~~or 19~~.

25. (currently amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim ~~23 or~~ 24.

26. (new) A gateway support node as claimed in Claim 12, the gateway support node being operable

to perform egress packet filtering in accordance with a destination address of the internet packets received from the plurality of packet data bearers, egress of the internet packets being allowed for internet packets having a legitimate destination address, and upon receipt of the internet packet,

to detect from the information data provided in the hop-by-hop extension header field for the gateway support node a destination home address of a mobile correspondent node which is to be the destination of the internet packets, and

to allow egress of the internet packets if the gateway support node recognizes the destination home address as a legitimate home address.

27. (new) A gateway support node as claimed in Claim 26, the gateway support node being operable to allow egress of the internet packets if either the address in the destination address field of the packet or the address provided in the hop-by-hop extension header for the gateway support node is a legitimate destination address.

28. (new) A computer program having computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a data processor causes the data processor to perform a method according to Claim 19.

29. (new) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 28.